

**REMARKS**

A Petition for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-4 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tatsumi et al. Applicant traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

The claimed invention is directed to a sense amplifier, including an equalizer that makes same the output of the sensing unit and the output of the reference voltage generator, wherein the equalizer is enabled before applying a read voltage to a word line of the memory cell and disabled after applying the read voltage to the word line of the memory cell, as recited in claim 1, as amended.

It is submitted that Tatsumi et al. neither discloses nor suggests this feature. To the contrary, a word line is set to the readout potential, then the equalizer is enabled by the control signal (DO) according to Tatsumi et al. Please refer to column 6, lines 33-37 and Figs. 5A-7B.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Tatsumi et al. clearly fails to disclose or teach the equalizer of the claimed invention, and therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 are not anticipated by Tatsumi et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is noted.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Application No. 10/601,868  
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Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

MAYER BROWN ROWE & MAW LLP

By: 

Yoon S. Ham  
Registration No. 45,307  
Direct No. (202) 263-3280

YSH/jr

Intellectual Property Group  
1909 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1101  
(202) 263-3000 Telephone  
(202) 263-3300 Facsimile

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